
Thousands of mourners have been queuing for hours in the Philippine capital, Manila, to pay their respects to the former president, Corazon Aquino, who died on Saturday. Our East Asia correspondent, Brenda Marshall reports:

World leaders have **paid tribute to** the former Philippine president who played such an essential role in **restoring democracy** to her country. President Barack Obama spoke of Mrs Aquino's courage and **moral leadership**, and his Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton said Mrs Aquino had been **an inspiration**. China's president Hu Jintao described her as an **outstanding** leader.

Mrs Aquino was a devout Roman Catholic and Pope Benedict recalled **her courageous commitment** to the freedom of the Filipino people, her **firm rejection** of violence and intolerance, and her deep and unwavering faith. Among the mourners who filed past Mrs Aquino's coffin, was Wan Azizah, whose husband, the Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, was imprisoned for many years - as was Corazon Aquino's husband, Benigno.

The Philippine president, Gloria Arroyo, has announced that she'll cut short her current visit to the United States to **pay her last respects to** Mrs Aquino who will be buried on Wednesday, beside **her late husband**, whose assassination in 1983 **sparked** the popular revolt that led to the downfall of the authoritarian ruler, Ferdinand Marcos.

Brenda Marshall, BBC News, Philippines

Vocabulary and definitions

paid tribute to	praised someone (here, after their death)
restoring democracy	bringing back a system of government based on the belief in freedom and equality between people
moral leadership	ruling the country according to high standards of good behaviour, fairness and honesty
an inspiration	a person who gave others hope and encouragement
outstanding	excellent, very good
her courageous commitment	her willingness to give her time and energy to something she believed in even though it put her life in danger
firm rejection	strong refusal to accept something (here, violence)
pay her last respects to	honour someone after their death
her late husband	her dead husband
sparked	refers to an event which started something especially an argument or fighting

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/8179357.stm>

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/wordsinthenews/2009/08/090803_witn_philippines_page.shtml